state :

(a) whether the recent Commonwealth Summit had asked the President of Zambia and the Prime Ministers of Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe to develop, with the Commonwealth Secretary General, the modalities of the efforts to assist the process of political dialogue with South Africa;

(b) whether any action has been initiated to pursue the course of dialogue; and

(c) if not, the stage at which the matter stands and the steps being taken to chalk out the programme of collective action ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Secretary General of the Commonwealth is in the process of finalising the constitution of the group of eminent persons, envisaged under the Commonewealth Accord on Southern Africa, to facilitate a political dialouge in South Africa. The group is expected to have its first meeting shortly in London where it will chalk out its programme of work.

1944. [*Transferred to the 16th December 1985*]

Issue of passports to extremists in Lucknow and Bareilly

1945. SHRI J.P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' of 6th and 11th November, 1985 to the effect that officers and staff of the passport offices at Lucknow and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh have been engaged for years in issuing passports to the extremists for consideration.

(b) whether an investigation has been made in this regard ;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) what are the particulars of the said officers involved; and

(e) what action has been taken against them and to cancel all passports issued to the extremists

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Passports in all cases were issud only after obtaining the clear security reports from the State C.I.D. Head Quarters at Lucknnow and necessary identity and citizen ship verification reports from local Police authorities. These reports did not indicate that the applicants were 'extremists', or that there were any grounds on which passports could be refused to them.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Flow of militant Sikhs to Ecuador

1946. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govt. are aware that Sikh militants besides those unemployed in West Asia, who sought political asylum in Britain and other West European countries, are being flown to Ecuador;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reaction of the Govt. of India thereto;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Govt. of Ecuador, and

(d) if so, what has been the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (d) Government have seen press reports to this effect which have mostly emanated from Sikh extremist sources. The entire question of Sikh extremists' claims *vis-a-vis* Ecuador was taken up with the Govt. of Ecuador. We have been informed that all the Embassies and Consultates of Ecuador in different countries have been instructed to exercise a thorough check before granting visas.

The Government of Ecuador have officially conveyed to the Government of India that Ecuador recognises only the Government of India as the legitimate Government of the country. They have reiterated the sincere desire of the Government of Ecuador to maintain friendly and cordial relations with the Government of India and categorically stated that there has been no official contact of the Government of Ecuador with protagonists of Khalistan or any separatist or enthic movements.

The Government are keeping a close watch over the situation.

Transfer of nuclear technology from US to China

1947. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a transfer of nuclear technology from US to China; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : (a) An Agreement for Cooperation concerning peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed between the Government's of the United States and China in Washington, D.C. on July 23, 1985. Under the provisions of the Agmreent, information and technology concerning the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes may be transfered by the United States to China (and vice versa). The Agreement will enter into force on the date of mutual notifications of the completion of legal procedures by the two Governments concerned. This is yet to be completed.

(b) The Agreement is a bilateral one, concluded between the Governments of the U.S. and China. However Govt. of India continue to closely follow developments relating to the Agreement in order to assess its implications on the security situation in our neighbourhood.

Drug abuses in Delhi

1948. SHRI J. K. JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, of late, incidence of drug abuse in Delhi has grown manifold;

(b) whether any estimates have been made about the number of users and peddlers of narcotic and other dangerous drugs and psychotrophic substances ;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to control the situation and to punish the drug abusers and those who are responsible for enormity of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) There has been an increasing trend in the incidence of drug abuse in Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.